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## ABSTRACT OF DISCLOSURE

5 A user interactive apparatus for searching a universe  
of financial instruments such as stocks, bonds, funds and  
the like. The search is conducted with a filtering process  
that involves performing n filter passes of the universe  
with a computer system having a viewing screen, an input  
device and an investment selection program. The filter  
10 condition for each filter is from a plurality of parameter  
limiters and a plurality of investment parameters. The  
pluralities of criteria and of parameters are presented in  
one area of the viewing screen. The program enables a user  
to select the filter condition for the  $i^{\text{th}}$  filter pass from  
15 the displayed criteria and parameters by operation of the  
input device. A histogram is then displayed in a second  
area of the viewing screen as an aid to the user in making  
filter condition selections. The histogram shows the  
population of financial instruments in different frequency  
20 of occurrence categories for the user selections. The  $i^{\text{th}}$   
filter pass is executed upon a command provided in response  
to user operation of the input device. The process is  
repeated until the  $n^{\text{th}}$  filter pass has been performed.